period from 2006-07 to 2011-12. The financial estimate has since been revised by NUEPA and now indicates a lower figure of Rs. 2,28,674 crores over the period of 2008-09 to 2014-15. The Central Government has in the last three years significantly enhanced the budgetary allocations to State Governments as part of its commitment towards universalisation of elementary education.

Eligibility of distance education for Central Government jobs

2167. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that students who got degree through distance mode, approved by the Academic Council of Annamalai University and Vinayak Mission University, would be eligible for Central Government jobs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that students who got degree through distance education from universities like Delhi University, Jamia Millia Islamia University, would not get Central Government jobs as per Government's rule; and

(c) if so, the reasons to give more power to academic councils of the above two universities in comparison to other universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Gazette Notification No. 44 dated March 01,1995 *inter-alia* provides that the qualifications awarded by the universities through distance mode are recognized for the purpose of employment in Central Government, provided it has been approved by the Distance Education Council (DEC) and wherever necessary by All India Council for Technical Education. Annamalai University and Vinayak Mission University have been recognized by Distance Education Council with effect from 15.2.2007 and 28.2.2007 respectively. Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia University have not yet submitted their proposals for recognition of their distance education programmes by DEC.

Shortage of faculty in UTs

2168. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IIT, Delhi and other UTs are finding it difficult to find high-quality faculty;

(b) if so, whether UTs have lowered the standards for new faculty;

(c) the steps Government are taking to encourage UTs get the best faculty;

. (d) whether new IITs would be given financial help to recruit suitable faculty; and

(e) the details of support to be given to new faculty at the newly established IITs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Indian Institutes

of Technology (UTs) are autonomous institutions and recruitment of faculty is done by them as per their respective Statutes and not by the Government. Recruitment of faculty is a continuous process and all out efforts are made by the institutes to fill up the vacant posts. UTs have been employing suitable strategies to attract and retain quality faculty which include providing of good residential accommodation, good medical facilities, initial research grants, financial support for participation in national/international conferences, suitable scheme for sharing of consultancy charges, etc.

(d) and (e) For the new UTs, the recurring and non-recurring costs, which include financial support for salary, perks and other facilities to faculty, will be borne by the Central Government.

Out of school children

2169 SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, even after 59 years of independence, there are still one crore out-of-school children;

(b) whether more than Rs. 11,000 crore have been collected through two per cent education cess during the last two years and if so, the manner in which the same have been consumed;

(c) whether the quality of education imparted in Government schools is poor; and

(d) the measures taken to reduce the number of out-of-school children and for ensuring gender equality and quality education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has made considerable progress in enhancing access to elementary education. From 4.4 crore children who were out of school in 2001, the number of out of school children has now come down to 75.97 lakhs as on March, 2007.

(b) Education Cess @ 2% on major Central Taxes was levied through Finance (No.2) Act, 2004. As per information received from Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, the following amount of Education Cess has been collected in respect of Direct and Indirect Taxes during the last two years:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Total
2005-06	7714.07
2006-07	8667.00*

* Figure are provisional